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East Elloe
Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year 1955

East Elloe Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Mr. H. L. Neaverson.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. S. Garner.

Members :

Mr. W. H. Baines (from May, 1955)	Mrs. A. H. S. Hunter.
Mr. J. G. Baker.	Mr. T. H. Login (to May, 1955)
Mr. R. G. Barwell.	Mr. J. Munson.
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Mr. I. K. Howes.	Mr. A. White.
Mr. A. G. Howlett.	

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

R. Miller, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. B. Hitchings, B.Sc. (Hons.) M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., A.M. INST. P.C.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS—


L. H. Motley, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food.

A. F. C. Kent, M.S.I.A., Cert. Insp. of Food (to 29th October, 1955).

CLERKS—

Miss F. J. Whelpton.

Miss V. Jackson (from 21st Nov. 1955).



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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House,
Holbeach.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
East Elloe Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for 1955, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

In 1955 this Council built 66 houses, bringing the total of houses erected since the war to 686. "Worn out" property, i.e. houses which have deteriorated beyond repair, must be dealt with now. The Council is showing an intelligent appreciation of this problem and have decided to deal with a total of 450 slum properties in a period of 10 years. This shows a clear understanding of the situation, as the need for more, and yet more Council houses will not diminish, nor will all the residents in this District be housed in safe and healthy homes until these unfit properties have been demolished. Each tenanted unfit house provides a potential lever for the allocation of a Council house and, if not demolished when the tenant is rehoused, soon has a fresh tenant.

The provision of a mains water-carriage sewerage system would constitute, as I have stated in my reports for 1953 and 1954, a really valuable contribution to the health and amenities of this District, and every effort should be made to get the work started. The District will get this service only by the concerted action of all Councillors. The Members of this Council, and they alone, have a living personal interest in the wellbeing of their District and they alone have the authority to provide this essential service.

The joint Disinfection and Disinfestation Centre, which is operated by this Council, Spalding Rural District Council and Spalding Urban District Council, is now complete and in use.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RAYMOND MILLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 84,597 acres.

The average population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of death rates is 23,280.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955 : £74,385.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1956 : £145,713.

The Sum represented by one penny rate at 1st April, 1955 :
£285/13/8d.

The Sum represented by one penny rate at 1st April, 1956 :
£569/0/0d.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate book is distributed as follows :

Parish	Total Houses	Estimated Population	Area in Acres
Holbeach	2116	6772	22666
Long Sutton	970	3123	3931
Sutton Bridge	1028	3299	10381
Fleet	461	1479	6837
Gedney	699	2245	11679
Gedney Hill	138	442	1865
Lutton	275	882	3793
Sutton St. Edmund	183	586	4670
Sutton St. James	219	702	2707
Little Sutton	49	147	743
Tydd St. Mary	278	892	4637
Whaplode	580	1861	} 10688
Whaplode Drove	234	850	
Totals : ...	7230	23280	84597

The estimated population for each parish, as given above, is only approximate, and provides a general picture of the distribution of the population in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Births.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	152	154	306
Live Births (Illegitimate)	4	8	12
	—	—	—
Totals :	156	162	318
	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population—14.07.

This figure is the corrected figure allowing for the age and sex composition of the population to secure comparability between local birth rates, the comparability factor for this district being .98.

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Still Births (Legitimate)	7	6	13
Still Births (Illegitimate)	2	—	2
	—	—	—
Totals :	9	6	15
	—	—	—

Still Birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births—45.05.

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	128	109	237

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population—9.67

This figure has been adjusted for transfers in and out of the district and, using the comparability factor of 1.01 supplied by the Registrar General, has been corrected to allow for the age and sex composition of the population in order to secure comparability between local death rates.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—35 (males 18 ; females 17).

Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) nil.

Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea—1 (male 1 ; female nil).

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion—nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Totals :	1	0	1
	—	—	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births : 3.14.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births : 3.27.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births : nil.

NEONATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Totals :	1	0	1
	—	—	—

Death rates of infants under 4 weeks of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births : 3.14.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births : 3.28.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births : Nil.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

	East Elloe Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	14.07	15.0
Death Rate	9.67	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year	3.14	24.9

Cancer is once again responsible for a large number of deaths. As a cause of death it is second only to diseases of the heart and circulation.

The Vital Statistics show that a satisfactory level of health is being maintained in the District.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease :

Excluding cases of Tuberculosis, 214 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Disease	Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	12
Whooping Cough	29
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	155
Diphtheria	—
Pneumonia	6
Dysentery	—
Enteric Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	9
Meningococcal Infection	—
Food Poisoning	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
	—
Total :	214
	—

**CAUSES AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN
EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1955.**

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	6	2	8
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	5	1	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	7	9	16
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	2	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	18	20	38
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	11	14	25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	24	25	49
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	9	4	13
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	7	14
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	2	1	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	17	9	26
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	—	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	3	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	4	—	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths :					128	109	237

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	5	4	1	—	2	12
Whooping Cough	2	4	9	11	2	—	1	—	29
Measles	2	35	29	81	3	4	1	—	155
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	9
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total cases :	5	39	38	98	10	6	15	3	214

COMMENTS :

It is satisfactory to note that no cases of Diphtheria or Infantile Paralysis were notified in the District during 1955. This must not be allowed to encourage a feeling of complacency or “out of sight, out of mind.” Immunisation against Diphtheria must be maintained at a high level. It is to be hoped that the vaccine against Infantile Paralysis, which is being produced in this country, will prove as effective against this disease as immunisation is against Diphtheria.

Vaccination against Smallpox is far below a satisfactory level. In these days of rapid air travel, smallpox is, once again, a very real menace. Vaccination is a safe and proven method of providing protection. Every infant should be vaccinated at three months of age or as soon after this age as possible. At this age vaccination produces a mild and painless reaction. It is only in adolescence and adult life, by which time the body has developed sensitivities, that a more vigorous reaction sometimes occurs with primary vaccination.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation for the year 1955 (Diphtheria).

Between the 1st January, 1955 and the 31st December, 1955, 243 children under five years of age, and 35 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 268 children were given a “booster” or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of the child population immunised at any time during the years 1941-1955 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough ...	75	19.6	1205	78.4	3052	78.9
Spalding Urban ...	41	17.9	707	82.8	1794	82.7
Boston Rural ...	63	17.6	1052	74.7	2692	78.4
East Elloe Rural ...	65	21.3	1160	76.3	2887	77.6
Spalding Rural ...	49	15.5	964	81.0	2482	79.8
Totals :	293	18.2	5088	78.2	12907	79.2

Of the child population (children born 1941-55 inclusive) 18,288 had been immunised by 31st December, 1955.

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/55.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	M. 39	F. 35	Total 74
	}	Non-pulmonary	...	7	2	9
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1955.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	1	2	3
	}	Non-pulmonary	...	—	1	1
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1955.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	—	—	—
	}	Non-pulmonary	...	—	—	—
Cases added to the Register during 1955.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	3	5	8
	}	Non-pulmonary	...	2	1	3

The total number of cases on the Register at 31/12/55 was 83.

Eleven names were added to the Register during 1955, and four cases were removed : two were cured and two left the District.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1955.

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	2	2	—	—	—	—

COMMENTS :

While 11 fresh cases were confirmed during the year, it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and only 1 death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Hospitals.

Holbeach Hospital is attended by the various specialists at given intervals. It is a general practitioner's hospital and a duty rota is maintained by all the practitioners in the District.

(b) Ambulance Service.

A Standing Joint Committee representative of the Local Medical Committee, the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council aims at ensuring the efficiency of this Service.

(c) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts.

(d) Health Visiting.

Health Visitors attend infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, visit expectant and nursing mothers and mental defectives.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Most of the children are referred to the Eye Specialist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Clinics.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic. Here again most of the children are referred to the Speech Therapist from School Medical Examinations or from Infant Welfare Centres.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infants or children requiring treatment not listed above, are referred to the appropriate specialist, and the family practitioner is kept informed.

(f) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is maintained by the County Council.

(g) Home Helps.

This service is provided by the County Council and is available to the public during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Arrangements were made for the voluntary admission of several aged persons to one of the County Council's Homes during 1955. One aged lady was admitted to Holbeach under a magistrate's order following the presentation of a certificate by myself and the patient's family doctor. Satisfactory arrangements were subsequently made for the care of this old lady and the order was permitted to lapse.

WATER SUPPLY

Spalding Urban District Council supply this District from their bore at Bourne. It is delivered into high and low level tanks at this Council's Pumping Station at Weston. From these tanks it is pumped throughout the District. Two other elevated towers at Little Sutton and Holbeach Drove of 50,000 and 25,000 gallon capacity respectively serve either as feed or balancing tanks.

The total water received from the Spalding Urban District Council for 1955 was 241,741,000 gallons. This is an increase over 1954 of some 25,994,000 gallons or 12.04%.

Bulk supplies to the Wisbech and District Water Board at their four "takeoff" points accounted for 12,214,000 gallons.

The actual amount of water distributed within the Council's area was therefore 229,527,000 gallons, equivalent to a daily average of 628,841 gallons.

In July, 1955, the new pumping station was officially opened by Sir Herbert Butcher, M.P. This official ceremony brought to a close a scheme consisting of a 12 in. diameter trunk main from Weston to Whaplode, a low level storage tank of 250,000 gallon capacity and a new pumping station housing two electrically driven pumps and one diesel engined pump costing in all some £50,000.

The 6 in. diameter trunk main at Sutton Bridge was extended a distance of 520 yards to improve pressures in Sutton Bridge and the Wingland area of Sutton Bridge.

The 4 in. diameter main at Broadgate, Gedney was also commenced to help the Sutton St. James and Tydd St. Mary low pressure areas.

Minor lengths of distribution mains have been extended during the 12 months.

Further trunk main schemes are in the course of preparation but in view of the restrictions on capital expenditure some delays will take place before completion.

A typical specimen analysis of the water distributed is attached.

The above details have been supplied by Mr. Rippin, the Council's Water Engineer.

WATER SAMPLING.

Regular water samples for chemical and bacteriological examinations are taken at the bore head at Bourne by Spalding Urban District Council.

In the area 34 samples of mains water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

Eight of these samples were taken as check samples prior to bringing into service new mains at Sutton Bridge, Holbeach and at Whaplode Drove. Frequent chlorination and flushing of the main at Holbeach Gate were found to be necessary before satisfactory samples were obtained and the mains brought into service.

The remaining 26 samples were in connection with routine examination of the mains supply, and all gave the following results :—

Probable number of Coliform bacilli, MacConkey,

2 days, 37 degrees C.—Nil per 100. ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks—Class 1 (Highly Satisfactory).

Samples of water were taken at a large camp in the district and found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. This was found to be due to pollution of water in a large elevated storage tank on the camp. Following thorough cleansing and chlorination of the tank further water samples were found to be satisfactory.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The analytical report on a sample of mains water taken on 4/10/55 was as follows :—

(a) Physical Examination

Colour : Nil

Appearance : Clear, no deposit

Taste and Smell : Nil

(b) General Chemical Examination

Parts per
million

pH.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.5
Free carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ammoniacal nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	trace
Albuminoid nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitrite nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	...	...	pr. nil
Total hardness (E.D.T.A. method) as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	370
Carbonate (Temporary) Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Non-carbonate (Permanent) Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Total dissolved solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	480

(c) Mineral Analysis

Calcium as Ca	...	...	...	...	...	128
Magnesium, as Mg	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sodium, as Na	...	...	...	...	...	20
Carbonate, as CO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	147
Chloride, as Cl	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sulphate, as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	120
Nitrate, as NO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Iron, as Fe	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Fluoride as F	...	...	...	...	...	0.05 approx.

The following details and figures have been assembled by the
Chief and additional Sanitary Inspectors.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Practically all the post-war Council Housing Estates have sewage disposal plants. These disposal plants, together with those at certain County Council establishments number 23, and their maintenance is one of the duties of the Sanitary Department.

During the year new drainage systems at 88 privately owned premises were inspected and tested.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Satisfactory public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Temporary sanitary conveniences are provided along the route at "Tulip Time," when large numbers of visitors come into the District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy vaults and cesspools, and for the disposal of the waste materials. Brief notes follow on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.—A weekly kerbside refuse collection is provided in the urban parts of Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Luton, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Gedney Dyke and Holbeach Hurn.

A fortnightly kerbside collection is provided in the rest of the area with the exception of Wingland. Here, owing to the sparse development collection is made at four-weekly intervals.

Two modern type side-loading refuse vehicles and one modern rear loading moving floor vehicle are used for the refuse collection service.

Disposal is by controlled tipping in pits or low-lying land.

During the year the majority of the tipping was carried out at the Sutton Crosses Site which should provide disposal facilities for a further year.

A small pit at Gedney Drove End village was filled in during the year in order to abate nuisance existing in the pit.

The disposal sites at Fleet and Gedney Dyke which were in use in 1954 were completed during the year. No difficulty is now experienced in obtaining sites for refuse disposal. Sites are being offered to the Department and a list of such places is kept which will provide disposal facilities for several years.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Salvage is collected at the same time as domestic refuse in both urban and rural parts of the area. Trailers are attached to the refuse vehicles for this purpose. Special collections are made when the quantity and type of material makes this necessary. Details are given below of salvage sold during 1955 :—

Material	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper and cardboard	246	0	1	2128	13	2
Textiles	4	16	3	108	7	6
Ferrous metals	18	19	2	75	12	9
Non-ferrous metals		11	0	39	12	1
Sundries				8	19	1
Totals :	270	7	2	2361	4	7

This is equivalent to the product of an 8d. rate.

The following table illustrates the increasing value of salvage sold since the scheme began :—

During	1940	sales were made to the value of	£338
„	1941	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£625
„	1942	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1348
„	1943	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1125
„	1944	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£852
„	1945	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£686
„	1946	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£634
„	1947	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£805
„	1948	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£986
„	1949	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£766
„	1950	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1089
„	1951	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£2883
„	1952	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1752
„	1953	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1487
„	1954	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£1723
„	1955	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	£2361
Total sales :			£19460

(c) Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal

A weekly evening collection is made from about 900 dwellings in Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. A cesspool emptier fitted with a special hopper tank is used for the collection.

Disposal is affected by composting with straw in well drained ground level lagoons. The product, which is similar to farmyard manure, is used for this purpose by the farmers supplying the straw. The sites now in use are at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge.

(d) Cesspool and Vault Emptying

The emptying of cesspools and vaults is carried out with 4 modern suction type cesspool emptiers. Three of these are of 1,100 gallons capacity while the fourth has a capacity of 750 gallons. The new 1,100 gallon cesspool emptier, fitted with a diesel engine, has proved much more economical in operation than the petrol engined vehicles. Privy vaults are emptied free of charge whenever application is made. Cesspools are emptied free of charge provided that service is not required at more than twelve-monthly intervals. Any charge is based on the time taken for the work and on the time since the previous service. The income from this service amounted to £1,985 during the year 1955. During the year 7,018 vaults and cesspools were emptied.

The following table shows how the demand for this service has increased since 1946.

Year	Vaults	Cesspools	Total
1946	1209	1082	2291
1949	1857	2164	4021
1952	2147	3067	5214
1955	2348	4670	7108

It would appear that the demand for vault emptying is at its peak, while the demand for cesspool emptying is still increasing.

Disposal is affected in a variety of ways. Land irrigation trenches have been excavated at sites at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. Sewage is discharged into these trenches and soaks away into the ground. The problem of sludge removal from the trenches has, to some extent, been overcome by the use of straw composting tanks into which the sewage is discharged prior to going into the trenches.

Whenever possible disposal is effected on agricultural land. This is only possible at certain times of the year. Large quantities are disposed of in this way with little or no nuisance. Farmers generally welcome this use of their land and there is an increasing demand for it.

The cesspool emptiers are also used for the desludging of the sewage disposal plants at the post-war Council Estates, Institutions, Schools, Factories, etc.

(e) General

A total of nineteen men are employed in connection with the Refuse and Salvage Scheme, Rodent Control and Sewage Plant Maintenance at Council Estates. Suitable protective clothing is provided for all workmen.

Attention is again drawn to the variety of receptacles used for domestic refuse. These range from defective buckets to oil-drums, and from broken tea-chests to standard type dustbins. Absence of covers on many of the receptacles often leads to nuisance. The contents get blown about, fly-breeding is encouraged and even when there is little smell, are far from attractive to the passer-by who, owing to the kerbside collection cannot avoid passing them on the collection day.

Refuse collections in the rural areas are increasing, and it is felt that it will soon be necessary to give a weekly instead of a fortnightly collection service.

No change has occurred in connection with the sanitary pail collection service. This is the most unpleasant duty that the Department's workmen have to perform. It causes nuisance to the person from whom collection is made, to the passer-by and to those who have the task of collection and disposal. There have been a few conversions of pail closets to water closets and it is felt that this is something which should be encouraged. Several years ago the Council considered the conversion of pail closets to water closets at certain Council houses where disposal of the pail contents provided a problem. Unfortunately no further action was taken.

HOUSING

Progress continues in the development of Council Housing Estates. The position at 2nd June, 1955 is shown below :

(a) Permanent Houses.

Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945	...	869
Houses completed since 1945	... ..	686
Houses under erection	... ..	50

(b) Temporary Bungalows.

Erected at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	... ..	69
Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge	...	42

(c) During 1955 the following dwellings were completed :

By the Council	... ..	66
By private enterprise	... ..	25

Applications for Council Houses.

A " points " scheme is used for the selection of tenants for the council houses. This is based on a number of factors such as condition of applicant's house, size, age and sex of family, illness, service in H.M.'s Forces, period of waiting and so on. At the present time there are approximately 786 applications on the list.

The Health Department is occasionally requested to report on the housing conditions of applicants and regard is then given to these reports which are attached to the housing application forms. Special consideration is always given to cases of tuberculosis. As a matter of policy, reports on housing applications, save in exceptional cases, are only made when a request has been made by a Member of the Council.

HOUSING ACTS.

The housing survey required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 was completed in August. It was estimated that approximately 450 houses were unfit according to the provisions of the Housing Acts. The Council's proposals for dealing with these houses were submitted to the Ministry and approved without modification. Brief details of the survey are given below :

Parish				Unfit Dwellings
Holbeach	...	...	...	101
Long Sutton	...	...	...	87
Sutton Bridge	...	...	...	51
Whaplode	...	...	...	52
Fleet	...	...	...	25
Gedney	...	...	...	46
Lutton	...	...	...	19
Tydd St. Mary		...	...	19
Sutton St. James		...	...	18
Sutton St. Edmund		...	...	18
Gedney Hill	...	...	...	14
Total				450

The Council felt that they could deal with these houses within a period of 10 years.

This survey together with other work, e.g., meat inspection has thrown a very heavy burden of work on the Health Department, the staff of which was depleted during the last 2 months of the year owing to one of the inspectors obtaining another appointment.

Very few applications have been received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts 1954. Two Certificates were granted by the Council during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

There are no large caravan sites in the area.

Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings	...	...	29
Licences issued in respect of sites	...	...	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

It was hoped that with the appointment of a second assistant sanitary inspector that it would have been possible to carry out more regular and systematic inspections of food premises. However, the large amount of other work, i.e. meat inspection, housing, etc., has, more or less, made this impossible. In consequence inspections are only made as and when opportunities permit.

It is difficult to see how it will be possible to find time to implement the new Food Hygiene Regulations which come into force on the 1st January, 1956.

Clean Food Campaign.

The Council is a participant in the County of Holland Clean Food Campaign. The object of the campaign is to encourage the voluntary attainment by food traders of a satisfactory standard of hygiene in consequence of which Clean Food Certificates would be issued to them.

Clean Food Certificates have been issued in respect of the following premises :

Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	8
Grocery Stores	...	...	...	13
Fried and Wet Fish Shops			...	3
Catering Establishments	...	...		3
Ice-Cream Factory	...	...		1
Cooked Meat Factory	...	...		1
Bakery	...	...	...	1

The parish distribution is as follows :—

Holbeach	...	...	...	...	15
Long Sutton	...	...	...		6
Sutton Bridge	...	...	...		2
Gedney	...	...	...	...	4
Whaplode	...	...	...	...	1
Fleet	...	...	...	...	1
Gedney Hill	...	...	...		1

(a) Milk.

1. Milk Distributors.

No. of milk distributors registered with the Council	...	10		
No. of premises registered as dairies	3

2. Designated Milk.

Practically all the milk sold in the District is pasteurised. Small quantities of sterilised are also sold. All the treatment establishments are outside the District.

The following licences to use the special milk designations were issued during 1955. Licences are issued annually expiring 31st December.

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	9
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	7
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	5
T.T. Tested	...	...	...	2

3. Sampling.

14 samples of bottled designated milk were taken during the year. All the samples conformed to the required standard.

(b) Ice Cream

Details of Register on the 31st December, 1955 :

Licences for manufacture and sale	...	...	...	1
Licences for sale only	...	...	...	75

The premises and methods are satisfactory. Practically all the ice-cream sold in the area is wrapped at the place of manufacture.

(c) Slaughterhouses

One new slaughterhouse at Gedney Hill was licensed during the year. There are now 8 slaughterhouses operating in the District and these are sited as follows :

Long Sutton	...	...	2
Gedney Dyke	...	...	1
Holbeach	...	...	2
Sutton St. James	...	...	1
Fleet Fen	...	...	1
Gedney Hill	...	...	1

(4) Meat Inspection

The siting of the slaughter-houses, the amount of slaughtering carried out at them and the hours at which it is carried out have made the duty of inspection onerous to the sanitary inspectors and costly to the Council. Meat inspection is now taking up a very large proportion of the time of the sanitary inspectors and a considerable amount of the meat inspection work is carried out outside normal working hours. Much of this is unavoidable owing to fluctuation in kill due to seasonal demand and to butchers requiring their meat supplies early in the mornings for distribution to customers.

During the year the amount of meat condemned was as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Affected with Tuberculosis :	4	6	1
Affected with other Diseases :	4	8	14
Total :	8	14	15

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1157	14	13	1291	4100
Number inspected	1157	14	13	1291	4100
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	—	—	—	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	283	4	10	78	528
Percentage of carcass affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24.5	28.6	76.9	6.0	13.1
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	105	6	—	—	171
Percentage of carcasses affect- ed with Tuberculosis	9.2	42.8	—	—	4.2
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

(e) Food Inspection

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—

370 tins of various Canned Foods.
22 Jars of Piccalilli.
2 Jars of Meat Paste.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's rodent control scheme is approved by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and, in consequence, ranks for grant.

One of the Department's Charge-hands is employed part-time on rat destruction work.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Total of 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total Number of Properties in District ...	22	6947	1056	8025	1718
Number of Properties inspected during 1955 as a result of (a) Notification (b) Survey or (c) otherwise	(a) — (b) 22 (c) —	10 292 1500	16 30 90	26 344 390	— 37 45
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested with (a) Rats { Majority Minority (b) Mice { Majority Minority	— 10 — —	— 18 — 2	— 19 — 1	— 47 — 3	— 1 — —
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority	10	20	20	50	1

INSECT CONTROL

Disinfestation against insect pests is carried out whenever a request is made. A charge is made for this work. D.D.T. preparations are in general use in all control work.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Thirty inspections were made during the year of factory premises in the District. Three written notices were served in respect of unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation or lack of cleanliness.

There were no prosecutions.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

(1))	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	17	4	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	78	20	3	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	6	—	—	3
Total :		95	30	3	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecut- ions were instituted (7)	M/c line (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Insp. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	—	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	1	1		1		9
(b) Unsuitable or def- ective	10	1	1		1		10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offen- ces relating to Outwork)	12						12
Total :	60	3	2	—	3	—	60

